

Commonwealth of Virginia
Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant (CMHS/SAMHSA)
Summary of Application

Submission Date	June 1, 2005
Submitted By	Governor Mark Warner
Amount Requested	\$3 million per year for 5 years
Purpose of funds	To accomplish the six goals and nineteen objectives of the President's New Freedom Commission report <i>Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America</i> , through planning and infrastructure development activities that result in comprehensive, cross-agency transformation of the state mental health system.
Needs Assessment and Descriptive Information	Virginia's application includes extensive descriptive information about the current status, gaps, barriers and needs of the mental health system in Virginia relative to each goal and recommendation contained in the <i>Achieving the Promise</i> report.
<p>Proposed Activities of Virginia's MHTSIG Grant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Formation and operation of Governor's Mental Health Transformation Working Group: This group is composed of the agency heads of DMHMRSAS, DRS, DSS, DMAS, DOC, DJJ, and DHCD; the Chair of the CSA State Executive Council; the Inspector General for MH, MR and SA; a representative from each of the seven existing Restructuring regions; nine adult mental health consumers, five youth consumers or parents, and five family members and advocates; the President of VHHA; and one Chair of Psychiatry from a Virginia medical school. 2) The Transformation Working Group Chair is James Reinhard, MD. The Chair reports directly to the Governor. 3) The Transformation Working Group and Chair are appointed and empowered by Executive Order of the Governor. 4) The Transformation Working Group staff include a chief of staff, two transformation specialists, two evaluation research specialists, a financial manager and an executive assistant. These staff report to the Chair. 5) Transformation Working Group will develop a Comprehensive Mental Health Plan to transform Virginia's MH system by addressing the six goals and nineteen recommendations of the President's New Freedom Commission report <i>Achieving the Promise</i>, with action steps and outcome measures. Virginia's proposal builds upon the existing Restructuring process already underway across the Commonwealth. The Comprehensive Plan will be compatible with the DMHMRSAS Integrated Strategic Plan. 6) The Comprehensive Plan development process will be a broad, statewide, participatory process including all stakeholders. 7) All workgroups, task forces, committees, etc., working under the auspices of the Transformation Working Group will include at least 50% consumers, parents of youth consumers, and advocates. 8) Accountability for ensuring that transformation actually occurs is through a Transformation Charter Agreement that will be executed by the Transformation Working Group members. The Charter will articulate the cross-agency vision of transformation and collective obligations to enact necessary changes to achieve transformation. Implementation progress reports will be made to the Governor and posted publicly. 9) Grant funds are requested for the following additional activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staffing: Approximately \$950,000 in Grant funds is requested for staffing (and related costs) for the Working Group, including the Chair and staff listed above. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stipends to support consumer participation (\$100,000). ✓ Consumer Empowerment and Leadership Training (CELT) (\$125,000). ✓ Development of Consumer and Family Network (\$75,000 in year 1 and \$100,000 thereafter). ✓ \$210,000 is requested for a Public Education and Awareness Campaign to increase understanding and awareness of mental illness, enhance support for MH programs, integrate health and MH awareness, and implement targeted strategies to prevent suicide. ✓ \$470,000 is requested in year 1 (\$700,000 thereafter) to support development of two Centers of Excellence in partnership with Virginia universities to coordinate, fund and provide workforce development and training to providers in recovery-oriented best practices. One Center will focus on adults and elderly persons, and the other on youth and families. Each Center will have an Advisory Board co-chaired, respectively, by an adult consumer and a parent. An additional \$100,000 will support special projects (e.g., research, studies, training) to be conducted in partnership with universities. ✓ Contracts with NASMHPD Research Institute to complete a cross agency needs assessment (\$35,000), planning for the Centers of Excellence (\$15,000), and a cultural competency self-assessment and plan (\$60,000). ✓ Leadership training for Working Group and consumers (\$75,000) to enable transformation to occur. ✓ Recovery Education and Creative Healing (REACH) (\$50,000). ✓ IT, Evaluation and other project-specific contracts associated with the planning process (\$460,000). 	
Stakeholder Involvement in Preparation of Application	Virginia's application reflects input from numerous consumers, family members, CSBs and other stakeholders . Virginia's proposal was refined through the Mental Health Planning Council, the Virginia Organization of Consumers Asserting Leadership (VOCAL), the VACSB, the Restructuring Policy Advisory Committee, and other stakeholder groups and forums. There is a strong mutual commitment to continuing to work in partnership with all stakeholders, although consensus has not been reached on all of the proposed strategies and methods for creating a transformed system of mental health care in Virginia. Virginia's submission included strong Letters of Support .
Federal Involvement	If awarded, the Cooperative Agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and SAMHSA will include appointment of a Federal Project Officer who will play a prominent role in the transformation process and who will have review authority over Virginia's Comprehensive Mental Health Plan.
Reporting Requirements	There will be a high level of reporting required, as well as participation in cross-state evaluation.
Funding Mechanism	Cooperative Agreement (Federal/State)
Date of Award Notification	Approximately September 30, 2005.
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